access and junction charges to the Department of Telecom.

11. The licensee will also pay Wireless licence fee, WPC Royalty etc.

12. The licences will be issued on a non-exclusive basis.

Telephone Service in Nawrangpur District of Orissa

3351. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone service in Nawrangpur district of Orissa in not upto the mark.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the telecom service there?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VER-MA): (a) No, Sir. The telephone services in Nawrangpur District are satisfactory.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The following steps are being taken to further improve the services;

(i) Induction of modern technologies in the network.

(ii) Upgradation of out-door plant.

(iii) Replacing over-head trunk lines by Digital trunk media progressively.

(iv) Training *of* staff to improve the skill.

Plans to improve the Post Offices in Assam

3352. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of population/village which are served by a post office in the country as a whole and in Assam as on date;

(b) whether there are any plan/pro-jects to improve the existing quality and quantity of post offices in Assam; and

(c) if so, the details thereof; and is not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VER-MA): (a) The details of populatioivVil-lages served on an average by a post office in the country as a whole and in Assam are as under:—

	National	Assam
—Population. served per post office	5517	5887
—Villages served per post office	4.53	7.28

(b) and (c) There is a target of opening of 25 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 2 Departmental Sub Post Offices in Assam in 1997-98.

The following action has been taken to improve the quality of service in the Post Offices:—

(i) 65 post offices counters have been computerised.

(ii) 20 post offices have been modernised.

(iii) Letter boxes have been installed in villages having population of 500 or above.

(iv) VSAI Technology is extablished in four centres.

(v) Night buses and private mail motors are utilised for mail carriage.

Target of New Telephone Lines in Silchar

3353. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a target of 3000 new lines of telephones in Silchar was fixed for the year 1996-97 which has not been achieved;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to *be* taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VER-MA): (a) The target of 18000 Direct Exchange Lines was fixed for the whole Assam Telecom Circle for 1996-97. During the year 1996-97 18003 direct exchange lines have been provided. No separate target was fixed for Silchar. However, 970 new connections were released from Silchar exchange during 1996-97.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise in view of reply (a) above.

Telephones out of Order in Mohan Nagar, Ghaziabad

3354. SHRI CYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many telephones in Mohan Nagar area, Ghaziabad (U.P.) are out of order since third week of February, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have considered refund of rent for such telephones for the said period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VER-MA): (a) Yes, Sir. 515 telephones went out of order.

(b) A break down in 1000 pair primary cable occurred on 22.2.1997 due to dig ging of Nala by Nagar Nigam, Ghaziabad. The cable was restored on 2.3.1997.

Another break down in 800 pair primary cable occurred on 16.3.1997 due to theft of cable. The cable was restored on 22.3.1997.

Again all 515 telephones went out of order on the night of 29.3.97 one to third break down caused by cable theft. The cable was restored on 4.4.1997,

(c) Yes. Sir. It is under consideration.

(d) The cases are being analysed number by number and the subscribers are entitled for the rebate as per the rules of the Department.

गुजरात मे नये डाकघर

3355. **श्री चीमन भाई हरीभाई शुक्लाः** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) क्या सरकार को गुजरात सरकार की ओर से राज्य में नये डाकघर खोलने हेतु कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुए हैः

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और इस संबंध में जिला-वार क्या कार्यवाही की गई है की जा रही है,

(ग) क्या सरकार इन जिलों में कुछ डाकघरों का दर्जा बढॉने का विचार रखती है,

(घ) क्या सरकार इन जिलों में त्वरित डाक सेवा शुरू करने का विचार रखती है, और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो उसका जिला-वार ब्यौरा क्या है?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा): (क) और (ख) जी हां। वर्ष 1996-97 के दौरान गांधी नगर स्थित उद्योग भवन में एक नया डाकघर खोलने का प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुआ था। डाकघर खोलने संबंधी मानदंडों के आधार पर यह प्रस्ताव औचित्यपूर्ण नहीं पाया गया।

(ग) वार्षिक योजना, 1997-98 के दौरान गुजरात राज्य में दो विभागीय उप डाकघर खोलने का प्रस्ताव है।

ऐसा अतिरिक्त विभागीय शाखा डाकघरों का दर्जा बढाने के माध्यम से भी किया जा सकता है।

(क) इस समय, गुजरात के और शहरों जिलों में स्पीड-पोस्ट सेवा शुरू करने का कोई प्रस्ताव विभाग के पास लंबित नहीं है।

(ड) उपर्यूक्त (घ) को ध्यान में रखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

गुजरात में दूरभाष केन्द्रों की क्षमता का कम उपयोग किया जाना

3356. **श्री गोयल सिंह जी सोलंकीः** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) गुजरात में ऐसे कितने दूरभाष केन्द्र हैं जिनका उनको आधिकतम क्षमता के अनुरूप उपयोग नहीं किया जा रहा है,

(ख) इसके क्या कारण हैं, और